



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

December 2015

BISHOP LOVE AT ST. GEORGE'S



From the opening Litany to the closing Prayer, parishioners of St. George's enjoyed Mass on Sunday, November 29th with our bishop, the Right Reverend William H. Love. One of the most profound statements in his sermon was *"...have the courage to step out of your*



comfort zone." Between our two services, there was an informal Georgian brunch in the Great Hall. Bishop Love stopped to socialize, and had his picture taken with the Vestry.



SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

Anna Thiessen has been a member of St. George's since she was born. "The church knows me better than I know me," she laughed. For fourteen years, Georgians have watched her grow....from that tiny little baby to a mature young adult who attends church religiously (pun intended!) as an active volunteer and participant in church activities.

A student at Mont Pleasant Middle School, she takes regular Common Core classes and has a challenging after-school activity: the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program that incorporates aviation and military customs. This year-round youth development program accepts new cadets between the ages of 12 through 18. The curriculum includes learning to lead, hiking, camping, and the opportunity to fly in a high tech plane. "The more you do, the more you get ranking wise," she explained.

Anna loves to ski in winter, which she finds very relaxing. And, "Reading and writing are two of my favorite things in the world."

A member of the acolyte team for four years, Anna enjoys just about every task on the altar except when she has to hold the Missal. "It's tedious because it's so heavy." She also doesn't like being sprinkled with too much incense. "Being an acolyte shows you have respect for the Lord," she said. "It's not easy, it's harder than it looks, but it's rewarding to be able to do it." Loving everything about St. George's, she said the parishioners are very accepting and "amazingly nice people."

Anna was an alto with the St. Nicholas Children's choir for several years and wishes it was still on-going. Of its music director, she said, "Andrew was a really good leader, funny, very patient, and he was great with children of varying ages." She has also worked on our award-winning floats for past Annual Gazette Holiday Parades.

Very involved with all aspects of St. George's, Anna sits in on the Second Sunday forums and asks questions. She is especially interested in the rector search process. "Most teenagers don't care about church, I'm different," she offered. "It's important that we have a good priest that everyone likes."

We have watched Anna Thiessen grow in her faith, volunteer for various ministries, and take an active role as a "young Georgian." She is, indeed, a credit to our church family.

lynn paska



Three daughters of St. George's....Erin, Courtenay and Jennafer Thiessen. prepare for Courtenay's wedding to Steve Hughes. Erin and Jennafer were co-maids of honor for their sister.

ASSISTED LIVING MINISTRY

The Assisted Living Ministry is alive and well, as our team celebrated Mass with 825 residents of Capital Living, Kingsway Community, Scotia Mansion and the Glen Eddy as of the end of November.

For more information on how you can become a part of this rewarding and worthwhile ministry, contact Andrew Krystopolski, Judith Smith or Alice Pumbo.

FATHER KING'S FAREWELL PARTY

For ten consecutive months, from October 2014 through September 2015, the Reverend Charles King had been a constant at both Masses on Sunday as well as Holy Days. He visited our sick and shut-ins, and ministered to many others during his time with us. We enjoyed his beautiful liturgies on festal occasions, heard his thought-provoking sermons, and got to know this "child of our church" better and better as each month went by. We also became acquainted with the gentle, friendly manner of his wife Alice, who is now an integral part of St. George's fabric.

As they say, all good things must come to an end....so on Sunday, September 27th....we honored Fr. King and Alice with gifts (an engraved silver bowl for him, a lovely bouquet of flowers for her) at the 9am Mass and a small brunch between Masses.

However, this does not mean that Fr. King and Alice will go back to their church, St. Paul's, and forget all about us. Nothing could be further from the truth! Fr. King was a congregant at our All Souls' Requiem Mass. He still will supply at St. George's as the need arises. And, Alice will still slip into the pew to support her husband and our parish as we celebrate Mass together. A grateful St. George's looks forward to their return visits with us.



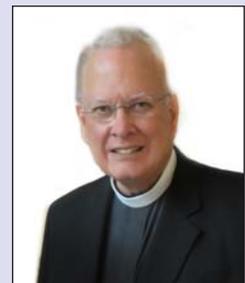
lynn paska

A GEORGIAN "THANK YOU" TO

....The Reverend Harold V. Reed, SSC, Rector of St. Paul's Church in Schenectady, for presiding over our Pet Blessing on Sunday, October 4th at 3pm, as well as celebrating our All Souls' Requiem Mass on Monday, November 2nd at 7 p.m.



....The Reverend Canon Robert F. Haskell of the Albany Diocese, for celebrating Mass with us on many Sundays in November and December as well as Christmas Eve. We hope to see more of him in 2016 until a new rector is in place.



The last of three creeds used in the Episcopal Church and one that you may not be familiar with – the Athanasian Creed. We say the Apostles' Creed at baptisms and the Daily Office, we say the Nicene Creed at every Mass, but we almost never say the Athanasian Creed – why? Yet it is recognized by the Church - the BCP Catechism, p. 852 says "The Athanasian Creed is an ancient document proclaiming the nature of the Incarnation and of God as Trinity." Today, we review that Creed and its origins.

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic Faith. Which Faith except everyone do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.

And the Catholic Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance.

For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one, the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost.

The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, and the Holy Ghost uncreate.

The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible.

The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal.

And yet they are not three eternals, but one eternal.

As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated, but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible.

So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty, and the Holy Ghost Almighty.

And yet they are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God.

And yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord.

And yet not three Lords, but one Lord.

For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by himself to be both God and Lord,

So are we forbidden by the Catholic Religion, to say, There be three Gods, or three Lords.

The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten.

The Son is of the Father alone, not made, nor created, but begotten.

The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son, neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts.

And in this Trinity none is afore, or after other; none is greater, or less than another;

But the whole three Persons are co-eternal together and co-equal.

So that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.

He therefore that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity.

Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation that he also believe rightly the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the right Faith is, that we believe and confess, that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man;

God, of the Substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and Man, of the Substance of his Mother, born in the world;

Perfect God and perfect Man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting;

Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead; and inferior to the Father, as touching his Manhood.

Who although he be God and Man, yet he is not two, but one Christ;

One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh, but by taking of the Manhood into God;

One altogether; not by confusion of Substance, but by unity of Person.

For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man, so God and Man is one Christ;

Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, he sitteth on the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

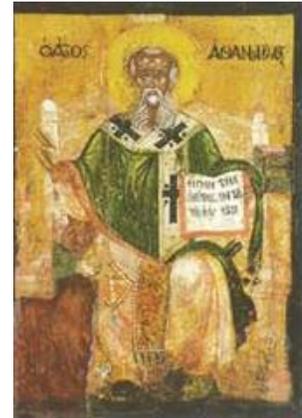
At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies and shall give account for their own works.

And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting; and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.

This is the Catholic Faith, which except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be saved.

You will notice that the Athanasian Creed is significantly more expressive than the Nicene or Apostles' Creeds yet it has all the same the same themes.

Origins The Athanasian Creed was originally thought to date to the 4th-5th century, attributed to St. Athanasius of Alexandria (296-373), the famous defender of Nicene theology. Supposedly, Athanasius composed it during his exile in Rome and presented it to Pope Julius I as a witness to his orthodoxy, but as early as 1642 this attribution has generally been discounted since the Athanasian Creed includes Trinitarian doctrine that appeared only in later theological discussions.

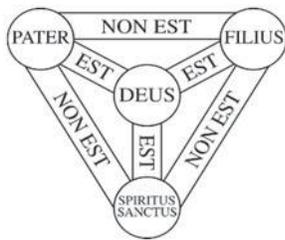


Athanasius of Alexandria was the author of the Athanasian Creed.

It is now thought to date to the 5th-6th century, at least 100 years after Athanasius and likely originated in Southern Gaul (modern southern France). The theology in the creed reflects Augustinian tradition, using terminology of Augustine’s *On the Trinity* (415), but scholars continue to debate its true author.

Theology The Athanasian Creed is the first creed in which the equality of the three persons of the Trinity is explicitly stated. It is unlike the Nicene and Apostles’ Creeds because of its length and in the inclusion of anathemas, or condemnations of those who disagree with its doctrines.

The Athanasian Creed can be divided into two sections, addressing the Trinity and Christology. The first section ascribes divine attributes individually to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, thus each person of the Trinity is uncreated, limitless, eternal, and omnipotent. Yet the creed also stresses the unity of the three persons in one Godhead.



The Shield of the Trinity, a visual representation of the doctrine of the Trinity, derived from the Athanasian Creed. The Latin reads: “The Father is God, The Son is God, The Holy Spirit is God; God is the Father, God is the Son, God is the Holy Spirit; The Father is not the Son, The Son is not the Father, The Father is not the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit is not the Father, The Son is not the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit is not the Son.

The Christology of the second section is more detailed than that of the Nicene Creed, and reflects the teaching of the First Council of Ephesus (431), emphasizing the incarnation of Christ - one with his divine Father but also one with his human mother.

The creed also moved beyond the Nicene and Apostles’ Creeds in its negative statements about peoples’ fate: “*They that have done good shall go into life everlasting: and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.*” This caused considerable debate in various churches.

Is it Used Today? Although accepted by the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran churches, the Athanasian Creed is used in worship services less and less frequently as controversy about “*eternal damnation*” saw its use gradually decline. While it was used in the

Church of England on certain principal feasts of the church year, the creed was never appointed for liturgical use in the Episcopal Church. It is published as one of the Historical Documents of the Church in the BCP.

Today, the Athanasian Creed is rarely used, with the possible exception of yearly usage on Trinity Sunday. But this creed stands alone in its detailed and beautiful description of the Holy Trinity.

david kennison

TOWN HALL MEETING



Second Sunday in October was held on the Fourth Sunday. Senior Warden Chris Henry gave an update on the rector search, and Jeff Wengrovius presided over the 2nd Town Hall meeting, discussing the upcoming Stewardship campaign. A plea for volunteers for Outreach (Louisa Carr), Good Samaritans (Kevin Grace) and the Assisted Living Ministry (Andrew Krystopolski) was included in the forum.

DEDICATION - STATIONS OF THE CROSS



On a beautiful Fall Sunday (September 20th), our pews were filled for the 9 a.m. Mass and the Dedication of the Stations of the Cross. Given in memory of the Moore and Henry families, the Stations had been hand-painted on wood by Gerri Moore and framed by cabinet maker Gordon Henry (senior warden Chris' father.)



Each Station was individually carried to its place on the wall by a cadre of volunteers: Michael Todt, Karen and Ed Perka, James Whitehead, Grant Jacquith, and Jim and Jimmy Moore; hung in place by MC David Kennison; then blessed and censed by Fr. Charles King. As he does for many special events, Sam Wengrovius returned as an acolyte/thurifer for this occasion.



A catered brunch followed the ceremony, and the Great Hall was alive with Georgian families, friends, neighbors....and food. Afterwards, the Moores posed for a family portrait: (L-R) Jim, Gerri, son Jimmy, granddaughter Sophia, daughter Jessica, son-in-law Asa, and grandson Finn. It was a lovely ending to a lovely morning.



3RD ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP DINNER



The 3rd Annual Vestry-sponsored Stewardship Dinner on Saturday, November 21st was another spectacular Georgian feast as hosted by Stewardship Chairman Jeff Wengrovius and his wife Barb, who spent most of her time in the kitchen....cooking the ham, reheating the potlucks, and washing the dishes afterwards. Andrew Krystopolski and his accordion entertained us with lively music....including the Chicken Dance for our young adults. He started our evening with a community sing of "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" and ended the fun-fill night with a patriotic community sing, "God Bless America." 60+ Georgians attended, and a great time was had by all.

lynn paska



- VISITATIONS -

Joan Bessarab - Our Visitation Angel

No picture? No problem! Everybody knows Joan and Joan knows everybody. Her encyclopedic knowledge of St. George's Parish and the greater Schenectady community is only one of the many qualities that makes this longtime member of the Pastoral Care Committee so important. When someone is added to our visitation list, all you have to do is ask Joan what she knows about the person and she gives a detailed background: when they attended St. George's; who are the family members and where they currently live; what activities they were involved in; and a host of other facts that allow us to personalize our visit. Joan is often the first to notice that someone has not been in church and may need

a call or visit. And it is not all uncommon for those we visit to say that one of their friends or neighbors wanted to be remembered to Joan.

As we all know, Joan is a great conversationalist with a wonderful sense of humor. A joke or funny story can lighten the mood and lift the spirits during difficult times. At other times she can use tender words and a gentle touch or hug to convey how deeply she cares. And she is not above using her keen sense of fashion to make people feel special. She remembers who focuses on her brightly colored scarf or who likes to feel her cool leather jacket. Words, touches, fashion, all tools Joan uses to make the connections that help people feel they are still part of St. George's Parish Family; that they still matter. It is no wonder that if a visit is made without Joan, as soon as the door opens the question is "Where's Joan?"

Recently Joan has decided to expand her outreach by joining St. George's Assisted Living Ministry thus increasing the number of people she can help. That group is very pleased to have Joan on board. This is but the latest of the many ways Joan has served St. George's having previously been a Warden, on the Vestry, part of the ECW, running The Shop and - you get the picture. All of this gives Joan a wealth of information that enables her to answer almost any question about the church that arises during our visits.

It is said that no-one is indispensable. Well, when it comes to Joan Bessarab, try telling that to those on our Pastoral Care visitation list. And I know when making the Pastoral Care rounds in my rusted old red truck, it sure feels good having our Pastoral Care Angel riding shotgun.

jim wingate



SUSANNA SHERWOOD'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

Susanna Sherwood invited her Georgian family to help celebrate her 90th on Sunday, October 11th...with a catered birthday brunch in the Great Hall between the Masses. It was an honor to honor this classy lady who doesn't look a day over 50!

- SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -



Happy New Year!

As we move into this blessed Advent season and the church's New Year, we have made an excellent start to this season of reflection, preparation and joyous anticipation. On Advent, St. George's welcomed the Right Reverend William H. Love. How appropriate we begin Advent with a visit from our Diocesan Bishop. We have reflected on our relationship with our Diocese, reaffirmed our need to work together, and look forward to the joyous anticipation of things to come with Christmas and the New Year. We were anxious to make the Bishop feel welcome, as all are welcome in our midst; he noticed and expressed, numerous times, his gratitude. We, on our part, seem to accept our differences but still feel strongly the need to move forward together in one body.

Throughout the past few months, as usual, we have come together to accomplish the many missions set before us. Through the end of Pentecost we began our Stewardship Campaign with a series of Town Hall Meetings designed to discuss our giving of time, talent and ultimately treasure. Our acolytes, altar guild and sacristans have maintained our Sunday Worship and our prayer book Holy Days, with a glorious All Saints' Sunday, and All Souls' Requiem. Our choir complemented all our liturgies, as usual, but did an extra special All Souls' Choral Evensong with our friends across the river at First Reformed Church of Scotia. The Gardens were put to bed for the winter with a parish work day that also happened to coincide with the Schenectady Holiday Parade and our Annual Stewardship Dinner. You know we like to keep busy.

A special thank you to all our Assisting Clergy! Fr. King cannot seem to stay away and we are grateful! Fr. Webber has maintained our Friday Daily Mass as well as teamed up with Deacon Smith from Christ Church to fill in our Sundays without any interruption to the Eucharistic consecration. Canon Haskell has joined us for several Sundays and was fully prepared to stay a while but, unfortunately, will be called away to the Cathedral after the first of the year. He will be with us for, however, a typical splendid Christmas Eve. And last but not least, Fr. Schofield will be back with us at the end of December.

Your Search Committee has taken on the monumental task of updating and streamlining our Parish Profile. The Profile is on track for completion at the end of the month, however applications are still being received and both an Interim and Priest-in-Charge possibilities still exist.

yours in christ, chris

- JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -



The buildings and grounds of St. George's are looking very good these days and ready for the winter weather ahead.

A work day Saturday headed by James Whitehead, with many Georgians in tow, toiled to bring our property up to standard.

Ice and water roof damage necessitated repair to the church wall near the pulpit and the ceiling between the altar and pulpit.

rick forshaw



- TREASURER'S REPORT -

As the year comes to an end, please review your pledge status and make an effort to “catch up.” The 2015 financial year hasn’t been too bad, but as we look to the new year I think our finances will be substantially tighter. Some money in the kitty at year-end can be very helpful as we can carry it forward.

You might also consider a contribution in the form of common stock (this will work for any tax year.) Many investors hold onto stocks simply because they don’t want to pay income tax on the capital gains. When you give stock to the church you get to deduct the entire value of the shares given on your taxes while avoiding the capital gains tax entirely!

If you want to discuss your situation, or ask the status of your pledge, please call me on (518) 399-9002 or email me at jpearson@nycap.rr.com.

jon pearson

ALL SAINTS' AND ALL SOULS' 2015



Reformed Church of Scotia celebrated Evensong with combined choirs directed by Andrew Krystopolski and Rebecca Shepherd. Louisa Carr served as cantor, her voice soaring in the lovely spaces of the First Reformed Church. Music ranged from Richard Ayleward’s traditional Preces and Responses to the contemporary anthem “The Saints of God” by James Bassi, and Charles V. Stanford’s familiar *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis*. Justan Foster accompanied on the organ and sent us away with Felix Mendelssohn’s lively “Allegro Maestrso e Vivace” from *Sonata II*.

St. George’s saw a busy weekend for All Saints’ Day on November 1st and then All Souls’ on November 2nd. First we welcomed The Rev. Robert Haskell during Sunday Mass on All Saints’ Day with Everett Titcomb’s wonderful *Missa Brevis in D*. During Canon Haskell’s sermon we received an unexpected gift in return: instructions on “How to be a Saint.”

Later on All Saints’ Day, St. George’s and First

St. Paul’s Church joined us for All Souls’ Requiem Mass on November 2nd, with Fr. Harold Reed as celebrant. Fr. Reed used the occasion to speak about joy since “death is not the final period at the end of the sentence.” During the Necrology, members of the congregation lit candles in memory of their departed loved ones. Our final hymn, “The Day of Resurrection,” celebrates the certainty of resurrection. After the service all were invited to a reception in the Shaw Lounge.

joan pearson



St. George's Episcopal Church
 30 North Ferry Street
 Schenectady, New York 12305
 Telephone (518) 374-3163
www.stgeorgesschenectady.org

The Georgian Report

Editor: Lynn Paska

Layout: Bob Paska

Contributors:

Richard Forshaw
 Christopher Henry
 Meg Hughes
 Sandee Hughes
 David Kennison
 Jane Moran
 Joan Pearson
 Jonathan Pearson
 Alice Polumbo
 James Wingate

The Vestry

Louisa Carr
 Richard Forshaw, Jr. Warden
 Suzanne Hartz
 Christopher Henry, Sr. Warden
 Grant Jaquith
 Jane Moran
 Robert Paska
 Jonathan Pearson, Treasurer
 Karen Perka, Clerk
 Jeffrey Wengrovius
 James Whitehead

Office Staff

Donna Vrooman
 Administrative Assistant
 Andrew Krystopolski
 Music Director
 Gerald Cooper
 Sexton
 Dawn Tonneau
 Financial Secretary

Dear fellow St. George's book lovers....

Thank you all for an enjoyable year of thought-provoking reading, discussion, and fellowship. I am pleased to report that our club, ***ALL ON THE SAME PAGE***, is still going strong and will resume meeting between Masses on the 3rd Sunday of each month, beginning in January.

We delved into both fact and fiction in 2015. One of our most popular selections to date was "*An Invisible Thread*," the true account of Laura Schroff, a sales executive who befriended an 11-year old panhandler on the streets of Manhattan. I would be happy to loan out my copy to anyone who has not yet had the opportunity to read this heartwarming tale.

Members also enjoyed "*The Greatest Generation*," Tom Brokaw's nostalgic look back on the lives of our parents (or possibly grandparents) who bonded together to restore the nation to peace during WW II. History and happenstance conspired to challenge the young adults of the 1940s. Would our country's current generation be equal to such a task? Club members agreed that, although today's conditions are vastly different, our nation still has brave and capable patriots who would answer the call.

For the January, meeting we will be turning yet again to WW II, but this time in fiction, with "*All the Light We Cannot See*" by Anthony Doerr. This Pulitzer Prize winning novel is 530 pages long, so I urge you to get started reading (or rereading) right away! Don't let the length of the book or its weighty theme deter you. The story is captivating and moves quickly, with many short chapters and fresh, magical insights from its two unlikely heroes, an orphaned boy in Germany and a blind girl in France.

We will discuss the book on Sunday, January 17th, at 10:15 a.m. in the Library of the Great Hall.

Thanks once again for everyone's participation and interest in 2015. I wish you all a joyous and blessed Christmas. If you have questions about our club or the January selection, please don't hesitate to email me, call me (518) 694-1550, or approach me at coffee hour.

meg hughes